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AND THE OSCAR GOES TO....

Where to see the Best Picture nominees
in Boston this weekend. 3



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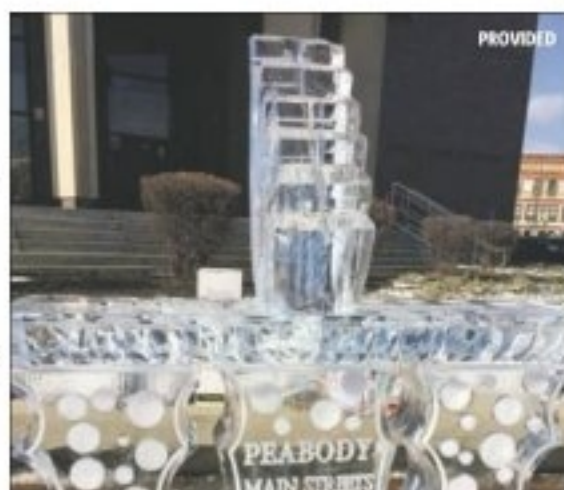


MATT JUUL, BOSTON FEATURES EDITOR

Get the popcorn ready because the Academy Awards are finally back this weekend. While Boston films and stars aren't dominating the categories like in years past, local movie fans can still cheer on Cambridge native Rachel Morrison. She's making history as the first woman in the award show's history to be nominated for a Best cinematography Oscar for her work on "Mudbound." Check out our prediction's for this year's ceremony below and read ahead to find out where you can watch the best picture nominees around town.

ICE ICE BABY

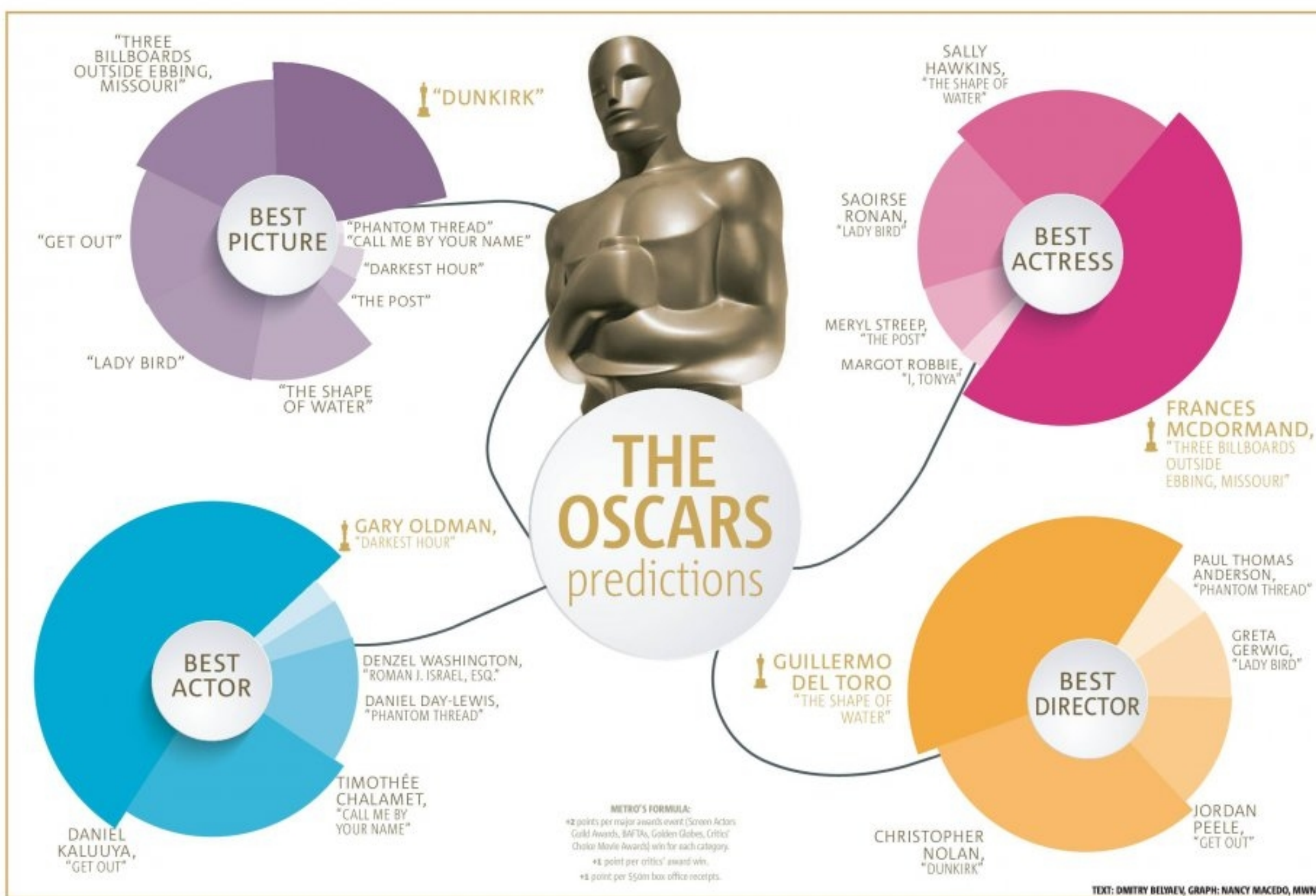
Spring is around the corner, but there's still time to bid farewell to winter in style. Get the scoop on a fun pop-up ice bar that's set to return to Peabody this weekend. **For more, see page 4.**



AWKWARD DADS



2 If you think you have an embarrassing dad, wait until you read about this podcaster's erotica-loving father. The "My Dad Wrote a Porno" live tour rolls into Boston this month. **For more, see page 5.**



LAUGHING WITH LOPEZ

3 Comedy icon George Lopez takes over The Wilbur on Saturday night. Ahead of his shows, we caught up with the comic to talk about his golf trip with Ray Allen, the state of late-night TV and more. **For more, see page 6.**



WEEKEND PLANS



4 Need some inspiration to spice up your weekend plans? We got you covered. Find out all the top events happening around town. **For more, see page 7.**

BY THE NUMBERS

\$44m
is the total cost of Oscars ceremony.

\$900
is the total value of the 24-karat, gold-plated Oscar statuette.



ISTOCK

Where to watch the **Best Picture** nominees around Boston

Get caught up on all the films ahead of the Oscars this weekend. **MATT JUUL**

The 90th annual Academy Awards are almost here, which means there isn't much time to get caught up on all of those movies before the big show. Luckily, there are still plenty of theaters around Boston that are showing the 2018 Best Picture nominees this weekend. Here's where you can catch this year's Oscar picks.

AMC's Best Picture Showcase

Movie lovers will be able to see five of the nominees for just \$40 during a special showcase. Head to Boston Common's AMC theater on Saturday to catch "Dunkirk," "Darkest Hour," "Call Me By Your Name," "Get Out" and "The Post."

175 Tremont St., Boston, amctheatres.com/2018-best-picture-showcase



Coolidge Corner Theatre

The Brookline theater will screen a handful of this year's Best Picture nominees on Thursday, plus a few Oscar shorts that are nominated in the documentary category. Stop by to see Guillermo del Toro's "The Shape of Water," Paul Thomas Anderson's "Phantom Thread," as well as

"Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" and "Lady Bird."

290 Harvard St., Brookline, coolidge.org

Kendall Square Cinema

Film buffs may want to consider spending their entire day at this Cambridge movie house in order to catch a slew of this year's nominees. The

Kendall Square Cinema will screen "The Shape of Water," "Phantom Thread," "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri," "Lady Bird," "The Post," and "Call Me By Your Name" on Thursday.

One Kendall Square, 355 Binney St., Cambridge, landmarktheatres.com/boston/kendall-square-cinema

Regal Best Picture Film Festival

Catch all nine of this year's nominees at Regal Cinemas around the country all weekend long. Fans can purchase passes for just \$35, which allow access to screenings for any of the 2018 Best Picture contenders. The Regal theater in Fenway will be showing each of the nominees at various times through March 4.

201 Brookline Ave., Boston, regmovi.es/BPFF

Somerville Theatre

The Somerville Theatre will only be screening one Best Picture nominee this weekend, Steven Spielberg's "The Post," starring Tom Hanks and Meryl Streep. However, fans can also catch contenders in other Oscar categories, including "I,

Tonya," which features Margot Robbie, who's up for Best Actress for her portrayal of figure skater Tonya Harding.

55 Davis Square, Somerville, somervilletheatre.com

Streaming services

If you're down to buy or rent a few flicks, sites like Amazon's Prime Video have "The Shape of Water," "Call Me By Your Name," "Get Out," "Dunkirk," "Darkest Hour," "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" and "Lady Bird" available. HBO subscribers can also watch "Get Out" for free via HBO Go or HBO Now. While it's not a Best Picture nominee, Netflix users can watch the service's original flick "Mudbound," which is up for awards in several categories, including adapted screenplay.

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Chill out in Peabody this weekend. ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

The proper way to indulge in New England weather is with a chilly outdoor bar.

SHIRLEY WANG

If you go:

March 3, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.,
24 Main St., Peabody,
livepeabody.com

Known for its pop-up pubs, the Peabody Main Streets community organization will put on its second outdoor ice-bar event with beer and wine March 3.

The evening will feature a DJ, a serving counter made of ice and an alcohol luge. Vendors Ipswich Ale and North Shore Lobster will serve drinks and hot clam chowder.

Last year's bar brought in visitors to this small town from all over Massachusetts, even in 4-degree weather. The DJ played the "Macarena," selfies were taken in furry coats and organizers put out heaters for the hundreds of visitors who stopped by.

President and CEO of the Peabody Area Chamber of Commerce Deanna Healey revealed to the Metro that last year's event brought a 20 percent increase in foot traffic for downtown restaurants and businesses.

"Peabody is very for-

tunate in that it has a very tight-knit community. People really have a strong love for this city," Healey says. "There's a lot of different groups coming together to make things happen together. Peabody Main Streets is not specific to any group of people, but bringing people to gather from all places and sharing what's unique about Peabody."

Peabody's city organizers recently implemented new traffic infrastructure and landscaping, and gatherings like the ice bar help boost the revitalization of city's center.

In November of 2017, a local developer invested \$4 million in revamping a Main Street building. "A lot of people don't have a reason to go downtown, but it's nice to show what's been going on in the area," Healey adds. "People look for a reason to get out and be together."



The fun returns March 3



The hit podcast is coming to town. ROYAL ALBERT HALL

'My Dad Wrote a Porno' hits the road

The live tour stops in Boston this month. **MATT JUUL**

Embarrassing your kids is part of the job when you're a dad. But Jamie Morton's father takes things to another level.

Morton is the host of "My Dad Wrote a Porno," a wildly popular and hilarious podcast from across the pond that chronicles his father's foray into the world of erotic literature. Each installment of the show features Morton reading a chapter from his dad's series, titled "Belinda Blinkered," as his fellow hosts and occasional celebrity guests like Elijah Wood and Daisy Ridley laugh along.

The British podcaster tells Metro that he was initially shocked when his father, who goes by the pen name "Rocky Flintstone," revealed his pornographic book series to him. However, Morton quickly got over his disgust and decided

to turn what he calls the "worst erotica in history" into a comedy series.

"Embarrassing dads are a universal thing," Morton says. "Dads have a real kind of knack for getting to the essence of what embarrasses you as children."

"I have the king of embarrassing dads," he adds.

Morton reveals that his father was inspired to get into the erotica-writing business after seeing the popularity of "Fifty Shades of Grey," in hopes of finding similar success with his own series.

"He heard of E.L. James, 'Fifty Shades of Grey,' and that kind of phenomena," Morton says. "I think he was just like, 'Oh, I can do that!' It turns out, he can't do that."

After more than 100 million downloads, "My

Dad Wrote a Porno" is bringing the fun to audiences around the globe with a live tour, which stops in Boston on March 5. According to Morton, the shows feature a lot of audience participation, but "in a clean way," as well as videos, improvisations and other elements that can only be explored in a live setting.

"We wanted it to be a stand-alone show," Morton says. "It's more of an all-encompassing comedy show."

As for the future of "My Dad Wrote a Porno" and the "Belinda Blinkered" series, don't be surprised to see a television or film adaptation one day.

"We're having very, very exciting conversations," Morton says. "We're working with some really exciting people."



If you go

March 5, 8 p.m.,
Shubert Theatre,
265 Tremont St., Boston,
\$43.50+, bochcenter.org

See hosts Alice Levine, Jamie Morton and James Cooper live in Boston. PROVIDED

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George Lopez on golfing with Ray Allen and the state of late-night TV

The comedy icon performs in Boston this weekend.

MATT JUUL

From his hit sitcoms to breaking ground on late-night television, George Lopez has been a pioneer for Latino performers in the world of comedy. While a lot has changed since he first graced the stage and screen, Lopez has his concerns about the current state of affairs in the entertainment industry and beyond. Ahead of his shows in Boston this weekend, we caught up with the legendary comic to chat about stand-up in the age of Donald Trump, his thoughts on late-night TV's lack of diversity as well as his recent golf outing with Ray Allen.

You were spotted golfing with former Celtics star Ray Allen. How'd you two become pals?

Ray and I have known each other from when he was playing, he might've been on the Celtics at that time, maybe 2008. When they used to come to L.A., they'd play on Christmas Day. I would always go to the Christmas Day games and, you know, guys sneak over and say hello. Knowing that he was a golfer, I remember I was in Phoenix one time, and he was playing early and we saw each other there. You always stay connected with these guys. They come to Los Angeles, they're always looking for a place to play. And that day, I just happened to hit a hole in one. When Ray posted it [on Instagram], it was at the same time as Paul Pierce's retirement

for his jersey, but I'm not sure that Ray was ever going to go.

How has Trump and today's politics influenced your work on stage?

It did in the beginning, but it's almost like diets. You don't want to say this is a Trump free show or it's going to include Trump stuff. I prefer to not deal with that because it's divisive. I'm trying to start the year with less. I've said what I needed to say. I don't think I need to keep saying it. Anybody that's a supporter of his, they might not be a fan of mine. If there are some that are, that's great. But I'm not intentionally going out trying to divide an audience. When things are said publicly by someone in that position, comedians through the



George Lopez will take the stage at The Wilbur this weekend. GETTY IMAGES

ages have always taken on politics, but not randomly. I didn't randomly decide to talk about how he approached Latinos and how he approached Mexicans, especially since that first day that he announced. But as you go on, you remember that the bigger picture is that your job is to make people laugh and not to divide rooms. I try to keep everything up and above and beyond talking about him.

You broke ground as the first Mexican-American

star to host a late-night show. Do you think comedy is missing something by not having more people of color as hosts?

I have to say yes. We were trying to be very diverse and very inclusive to performers [with "Lopez Tonight"]. I had 50 Cent on with Mark Harmon. I had Enrique Iglesias on with Def Leppard. It was [Justin] Bieber's first talk show, and Far East Movement. Great musical acts, I love music. From Janet Jackson to Nicolas Cage to Ben Kingsley, Helen Mirren, and they all really

liked the approach that we were taking. Unfortunately, the people at TBS or the producers didn't like that it was something that they were a bit uncomfortable with, because they're not used to it. I love Jimmy Kimmel, Jimmy Fallon and [David] Letterman at that time, but I wasn't trying to be those guys. Respectfully, I love those guys, I've been on all their shows. It wasn't about creating a rift between me and other late-night shows, we were just trying to create our own path.

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YOUR WEEKEND STARTS NOW

FOOD & DRINK

"Star Wars" Brunch

The Force will be with Summer Shack this weekend. The seafood joint has organized a "Star Wars"-themed brunch Sunday, complete with dishes like Chewie's Bacon, Rebel Lobster Hash, Luke Skywalker waffles and more.

March 4, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Summer Shack, 149 Alewife Brook Park Way, Cambridge, summershack-restaurant.com

Wine & Cheese Fest

Kick off March the right way with Eataly on Thursday night. The Italian dining emporium is hosting a wine and cheese tasting festival where guests will get the chance to munch on delicious *formaggi* while sipping vini selected by ex-

pert cheesemongers and wine connoisseurs.

March 1, 6 p.m.-9 p.m. and 7 p.m.-10 p.m., 800 Boylston St., \$60, eataly.com

ARTS & CULTURE

"American Dynasties: The Kennedys"

CNN is bringing a screening of its new docuseries on the Kennedys to Boston Thursday night. The special showing will be followed by a panel discussion moderated by CNN anchor John King and featuring panelists Patrick J. Kennedy, former U.S. Rep. Leah Wright Rigueur, as well as Harvard Kennedy School of Government professor and Kennedy biographer Larry Tye.

March 1, 6 p.m.-8 p.m., Central Library, 700 Boylston St., open to



Berklee Middle Eastern Festival

Celebrate the sounds of the Middle East with Berklee on Thursday night. Now in its 10th year, the fest will feature performances by Vadim Neselovskyi Trio, Tigran Hamasyan and more. **March 1, 8 p.m., Berklee Performance Center, 136 Massachusetts Ave., \$8+, berklee.edu**

the public

Solange

The singer will receive the Artist of the Year award at the Harvard Foundation's Cultural Rhythms festival on Saturday. The annual festivities are also set to include performances by student groups, "ethno-cultural cuisine" and more. **March 3, 4:30 p.m., Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge, \$24, boxoffice.harvard.edu**

COMEDY

COMEDY

Patton Oswalt

WBUR "Here & Now" co-host Robin Young will sit down with the actor and comedian for a discussion about "I'll Be Gone in the Dark," written by Oswalt's late wife, Michelle McNamara. The book explores McNamara's obsessive search for the truth behind the infamous "Golden State Killer." Tickets to the event also include a copy of the book.

March 1, 6 p.m., Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St., Brookline, \$27.99, wbur.org/community/events



Baseem Youseff

Dubbed the Jon Stewart of Egypt, Youseff was forced to flee his home country in 2014 due to his jokes criticizing the Egyptian government. He has since taken the U.S. comedy scene by storm and will perform in Boston on Saturday. **March 3, 4 p.m., Laugh Boston, 425 Summer St., \$25, laughboston.com**

MUSIC

Aaron Carter

Party like it's 2000 with the former teen pop star in Lawrence this weekend. Carter is bringing his latest tour to town to promote his new record "LøVë," his first record in 15 years.

March 2, 6 p.m., Claddagh Pub, 399 Canal St., Lawrence, \$25+, aaroncarter.love

Acoustica Electronica

This immersive show blends electronic and classical music with dance, circus performances and theater for one unforgettable evening. Stop by the Oberon to experience this awe-inspiring performance for yourself.

March 2, 10 p.m., Oberon, 2 Arrow St., Cambridge, \$15+, americanrepertorytheater.org

GOING OUT

Casino Night

Ready to roll the dice? The Lenny Zakim Fund's annual casino night returns on Saturday with games, auctions, prizes, an open bar and more. "The Real Housewives of Atlanta" star NeNe Leakes is set to host this year's festivities.

March 3, 8 p.m.-midnight, Four Seasons Hotel, 200 Boylston St., \$250+, thelennyzakimfund.org

MFA Late Nites

Party all night long at the Museum of Fine Arts on Saturday. The MFA's popular Late Nites series is back with puzzles, food, a beer hall, music by DJ Dayglow, plus a virtual reality experience by art collective duo MSHR.

March 3, 8 p.m., Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., \$20, mfa.org

Pajama Party

First Fridays return at the Institute of Contemporary Art this weekend and the museum is kicking off March with a pajama party. Stop by in your PJs for a night of games, dancing, art and live music courtesy of Boston's own Bearstronaut.

March 2, 5 p.m.-10 p.m., Institute of Contemporary Art, 25 Harbor Shore Dr., \$15, icaboston.org MATT JUUL

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Nor'easter to bring strong rain, winds to Boston this weekend

The storm will cause coastal flooding along the eastern Massachusetts coast, forecasters say, and damaging winds in the Boston area. KRISTIN TOUSSAINT

An old adage says that March comes "in like a lion," so it's appropriate that the month will be off to a rough and roaring start for Bay Staters with a nor'easter expected to hit at the end of this week.

A "multifacet" coastal storm will pummel the eastern Massachusetts area Thursday night into Saturday, according to the National Weather Service. The storm could cause major coastal flooding into the weekend and strong damaging winds, as well.

Forecasters don't predict a lot of snow, but the storm is expected to bring plenty of other precipitation.

"While there remains uncertainty, the risk of getting that much snow in the Boston metro area is quite low," the National Weather Service Boston office said on Twitter. "Our greatest concern is coastal flooding over several high-tide cycles late Friday am into Saturday across eastern MA coast. Moderate coastal flooding seems like a sure bet, but major coastal flooding with a very significant impact is possible depending on track/timing."

Forecasters are still



Heavy rain and strong winds are expected in Boston and throughout eastern Massachusetts this weekend. GETTY IMAGES

nailing down their exact predictions for how severe this will be, since the storm is a few days out. Still, residents along the Massachusetts coast should start making preparations as soon as possible, experts warn.

The National Weather Service Boston listed some key points to note for the Friday-through-Saturday storm: It will be especially dangerous for

mariners, moderate to major coastal flooding is possible along the entire eastern Massachusetts coast and heavy rain with wet snow may occur at times.

Boston is seeing some higher-than-average temperatures ahead of the storm, reaching a high near 60 degrees on Wednesday and 55 degrees Thursday.

This is "very atypical"

for the end of February, forecasters said, when the high is usually in the lower 40s.

The rain will start mainly after 8 p.m. Thursday, with winds ramping up to 16 to 21 miles per hour after midnight.

Friday will be windy, with most winds between 21 and 26 miles per hour — though some gusts could reach as high

as 55 miles per hour, according to the National Weather Service. That abnormally warm weather will pass, as well, with Friday reaching a high year 44 during the day and a low around 36 at night.

Boston is expected to be rainy through Saturday, with forecasters saying Sunday will be cloudy with a low around 34 degrees.

GUN DEBATE

Once skeptical, Baker urges federal assault weapon ban

Congress should follow the Bay State's lead and pass a law similar to the state's ban on assault weapons, Gov. Charlie Baker said.

"Look, I think the assault weapons ban in the commonwealth of Massachusetts, based on all the data that's available, has served this commonwealth well, and I think it would be appropriate at this point for the federal government to adopt something similar," Baker said Wednesday afternoon.

Following the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, that left 17 dead and launched the nation into another debate about guns, the governor has touted Massachusetts' gun laws.

"I've said several times on some of these other major tragedies associated with guns that I would like to see the federal government pursue many of the strategies and the policies that we have here in the commonwealth of Massachusetts," Baker said last Thursday.

Setti Warren, a Democrat who is hoping to challenge the Republican incumbent in his re-election bid this year, found footage of Baker talking about the assault weapons ban four years ago where he seemed skeptical of the approach.

In a 2014 appearance on New England Cable News, Baker said he would need to see evidence before supporting a federal assault weapons ban.

"If I thought it would solve the problem, I'd be all for it. I need to see the evidence," Baker told the program's host, Jim Braude.

Baker, who was then a candidate for governor, said gun crime had "gone up ... by a lot" since the state's 1998 assault weapons ban.

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New study: The 'loudness' of our thoughts changes how we hear sounds

Research out of New York University shows a connection between how loud our internal voices are and how well we hear external noises.

KRISTIN TOUSSAINT

Have you ever been so focused on your thoughts that you didn't hear a noise? Or been somewhere so loud you couldn't hear yourself think?

It's not just hyperbole. There actually is a connection between how loud your internal voice is and how loud you perceive the external world, a new study finds.

Researchers at New York University, NYU Shanghai and Zhejiang University in China recently published their



When someone thinks with a "loud" internal voice, external noises sound quieter, a new NYU study found. iSTOCK

findings in a paper called "Imagined Speech Influences Perceived Loudness of Sound."

David Poeppel, a professor of psychology and neural science at NYU who was involved in the research, said that this helps us better understand how our own brains work. "What the study is

actually about is testing something very specific about how speech production works," he said. "When your thoughts are translated into words — when you plan on saying them — you plan even how loud something's going to be. You can use that as a test to figure out how loud you experience the

environment."

For the study, researchers asked people to think of a word and say it either very loudly or very quietly to themselves. Participants never said anything out loud or even moved their mouths, he noted, they just simply shouted something in their head.

Researchers then

played a tone out loud and the participants had to rate how loud that noise seemed on a scale of one to 10.

When someone thinks with a "loud" internal voice, external noises sound quieter, the study found.

"Suppose I ask you to please shout 'cat' in your head, then right afterward I play a sound. You'll actually imagine that sound to be soft, because the sound in your head is so loud," Poeppel explained. "And vice versa, if you imagine saying it softly, you imagine the [external] sound to be louder."

Researchers repeated the experiment multiple times, using just behavioral ratings from the participants and then using two different kinds of brain imaging technology during the process. The results were the same each time. "The idea is

when you turn a thought into a word, when you're planning to say it, before you've even moved your lips or tongue or anything, it's already been turned into a sound," Poeppel said. "It's been turned into a sound in the future, basically."

These findings could help influence a lot of further research on everything from stuttering to schizophrenia, but are important mainly because they move us closer to understanding "how our brains work and how they interact with the external world," he said.

That interaction may end up being distracting sometimes. This may show that loud noises are "competing" with the noises in our heads, Poeppel said — so the next time someone yells at you when you're lost in thought, you can honestly say you didn't hear them.



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Friday, March 30,
at 4:00 PM

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boston.gov/departments/procurement

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Mayor Martin J. Walsh



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A user of AR glasses works on an industrial machine. ISTOCK

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Metro examines the technology that combines the best of VR and AR and has the potential to revolutionize many industries.

DANIEL CASILLAS, MWN

Augmented reality and virtual reality have become very popular in the last couple of years, with hundreds of companies developing devices and software for different applications.

However, a new technology could become

much more trendy this year. It is called mixed reality.

Mixed reality (MR) or hybrid reality is the combination of VR and AR, which allows for the creation of spaces in which real and virtual objects and/or people interact.

It has already become trendy in the field of technology, and it could be used to create a whole new world with dozens of applications ranging from entertainment, workplaces, health care, even battlefield and military training.

The potential of this technology is so huge that Facebook, Google, Samsung, Sony, Nintendo, Huawei, Microsoft and others are working on it.

Experts agree that mixed reality could revolutionize some industries.

"It can have lots of applications. In manufacturing, mixed reality can provide workers with real-time assistance and therefore improve productivity and quality. In education, mixed reality can create immersive educational

experiences for students of any age. Doctors can even get assistance thanks to mixed reality.

In communications, mixed reality can help people collaborate more efficiently. When shopping, mixed reality can provide customers with prices and product descriptions.

"The technology isn't only for fun — it can revolutionize many industries," Julia Tokareva, software development consultant at RubyGarage, explained to Metro.

Mixed reality could also change how people interact, especially in work environments.

Accenture, a global management consulting, technology services and outsourcing company, issued a report on the benefits of mixed reality, highlighting its potential to change how people work, communicate and relate to the world.

The firm argues that as an immersive technology and the one requiring specialized hardware, considerations must be made for etiquette and socially

acceptable uses of MR.

"How does a worker with a mixed reality device interact with others around him? How do groups of people work together in mixed reality? How will social norms change to accommodate mixed reality holograms that can only be seen by some people?" Accenture asks in the research.

However, like any new technology, MR faces challenges. According to Tokareva, the biggest are related to the hardware and software needed to run this type of technology.

On the one hand, mixed reality requires headsets that are quite pricey, and there are few companies that develop specialized software. The nascent mixed-reality industry would have to overcome these challenges to grow and become more affordable.

Despite the fact that it is still too early to see the full potential of mixed reality, reports and specialists agree that it can become a disruptive and revolutionary agent.



SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT OF INVITATION TO BID

The YMCA of Greater Boston announces its intention of sponsoring the USDA Summer Food Service Food Program. Planned dates of operation are June 20, 2018 through September 1, 2018 with the option to review for up to four years. Bids are solicited from vendors. Anticipated service is approximately breakfast, am snack, lunch, pm snack and supper for a minimum of 55 sites, up to 7 days a week, with potential for expansion. Some sites will be serving meals during the weekends. All meals must be unitized. Bids must be received by (2:00 PM on March 23, 2018). All bids are subject to review by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Office for Food and Nutrition Programs, 75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148.

The public bid opening will be at (2:00PM on April 2, 2018 at 316 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA, 02115).

Copies of the Invitation to Bid may be received from:
YMCA of Greater Boston, 316 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115
Attn: Paul Slovin

Or via email to pslovin@ymcaboston.org kibeh@ymcaboston.org and

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the YMCA of Greater Boston where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

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Being born into a royal family isn't the only way to experience castle living. While the bad old medieval times are behind us, spending a few days at the stunning Ashford Castle on the Galway-Mayo border will help you realize just why it's good to be the king/queen.

Even if you're not the glass-slipper type, an amazing few days of luxury, history, charm and adventure will do anyone a world of good.

A fairytale setting

Netflix's "The Crown" plus a bad case of Meghan Markle envy means everybody wants to stay in a castle. And why not? If you're going to stay in a castle, it should look, feel and be majestic, and Ireland's Ashford Castle ticks all these boxes.

Lording over the charming little village of Cong on the Mayo-Galway border and set on 350 stunning acres hugging the shores of Lough Corrib, Ashford Castle is consistently, and justifiably, ranked one of the world's best hotels. A 13th century Anglo-Norman stronghold turned luxury hotel (and in between, a home to the Guinness family), Ashford was restored to its full historic splendor with a complete \$75 million overhaul in 2015.

Along with all necessary updates, the careful restoration brought exquisite new rooms, luxurious bathrooms, enhanced public spaces, elegant dining rooms, a new spa, a plush 32-seat cinema and more.

Castle feels

Sure, landscaped grounds, sweeping staircases, a moat and tur-

reted towers all provide the required Instagram backdrops to let everyone know that you are staying in a castle, but it's the quiet efficiency, attention to every detail, and obvious sense of pride and care at every turn at

Ashford Castle

that makes you feel like you are staying in a castle. Add a staff

that could be character actors for Irish wit, hospitality, and charm and you know you are staying in an Irish castle.

Keep your head in the clouds

In the good old days, a queen could just off someone's head for kicks, but these days we have less messy ways to get an adrenaline rush, and you'll find plentiful outlets on the grounds of Ashford Castle. Forget taking tea all day (not that we'd judge), the modern queen takes advantage of onsite activities ranging from falconry, horseback riding, golf, and cycling, to fishing, boating, clay-shooting, and archery.

A great way to keep your head above the commoners is the onsite zip line course, which allows a bird's eye view of the castle as you zip through the woods. And if you enjoy hanging out on the treetops, challenge yourself to a tree-climbing exercise with the tallest tree-climb in Ireland, a 164-foot tree planted in the late 1800s by the Guinness family.

Walk a hawk

Did you know that while you might initially squirm at the sight of fresh dead mice, you will be plucking them like pretty flowers when you realize it makes a magnificent bird cut across



Ashford Castle underwent a recent renovation for all the modern comforts in an old-school setting. ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED



The royal spa

the sky and swoop down to your gloved fist?

Ashford Castle's School of Falconry is the oldest Falconry school in Ireland and the private one-hour woodland walk with a harris hawk, either on your wrist or following closely and coming to you on command, is a truly enchanting experience.

Summon the hounds

Hollywood princesses might prop ornamental pooches in their Chanel purses, but queens prefer the company of formidable Irish wolfhounds. Ashford Castle is home to two gentle giants, Cronan and Garvan, and the two noble brothers make a daily appearance in the castle from 10-11 a.m. Guests get to meet and play with the dogs and take pictures.

Early risers can accompany these magnificent creatures on a morning woodland walk (rain boots and coats are provided by the castle); just meet at reception at 8.30 a.m.

It's good to be the queen

A spa treatment, or spa day, is essential to a restful escape and Ashford Castle's lavish spa and indoor pool offers luxury and facilities with stunning views of Lough Corrib. Decorated in calming grays, creams

and greens, the spa boasts a stunning indoor relaxation pool housed in a bronze conservatory, complete with seashell chandeliers and a Tree of Life mosaic.

Treatment options include hot stone massage, aroma and marine therapy, regenerating

facials, detoxifying wraps, and pampering beauty treatments, as well as a variety of Hammam sessions and other wellness treatments.

Getting here

If your vacation budget is not exactly like a queen's,

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PATS WON'T LET GRONK LEAVE

OPINION

**DANNY
PICARD**

@dannypicard

By now, we've all put ourselves in Rob Gronkowski's shoes.

Playing in the NFL has taken a toll on his body. He wants to control his own training regimen. He's highly underpaid. He enjoys acting. And his interest in the WWE is real.

It's led to rampant speculation that Gronkowski is all but done playing football. It's not about business, they'll tell you. This is personal.

Well, I'm here to remind you that the New England Patriots still exist. And it's time to stop trying to decode every tweet, and start putting yourself in the shoes of someone in the Patriots' organization who has some say in the matter.

Before I go any further, I should reiterate my very strong belief that Gronkowski isn't going anywhere. I've been yelling and screaming on my podcast since the Super Bowl that there's no chance Gronkowski goes to Hollywood or leaves for the WWE right now. The key phrase is, "right now," as in, this offseason.

The rumors are probably true, to an extent.

He will probably go to Hollywood at some point. He might even end up being a full-time WWE employee one day. But not right now.

Gronkowski has yet to verbally commit to playing football in 2018. But last I checked, he's under contract for two more seasons. It's a contract that's seen its ups and downs, beginning as a six-year, \$54 million extension, and ending as a reworked performance-based deal.

In a league that's all about guaranteed money for players, it's laughable to think that one of the most physically-dominant receivers in NFL history is playing for incentives. Nobody is judging how easy or difficult it might be to reach those incentives. It's the principle alone that counts here.

It seems borderline offensive to see record-breaking deals with record-breaking guaranteed money every offseason, and then have to discuss Gronkowski's upcoming incentives. And if I'm offended by that, how do you think Gronkowski and his agent Drew Rosenhaus feel? I think we're finding out now.

Gronkowski wants guaranteed money. And he has every right to demand it. Instead of storming into Foxborough and risking the potential of being perceived



Rob Gronkowski with a fourth-quarter touchdown grab in Super Bowl LII. GETTY IMAGES

as "greedy" to those who can't understand how a multibillion-dollar industry works, he's simply threatening to leave and go do something else.

But if you think the Patriots are going to just let him walk away, you are misguided.

The next rumor you'll probably hear is that Bill Belichick is listening to trade offers for

Gronkowski. That might not actually be true, but it will at least be leaked from Foxborough with the "two can play this game" mindset.

Eventually, this offseason, the two sides will talk. And if you put yourself in the Patriots' shoes, how could you possibly tell Gronkowski to turn in his playbook and then walk him to his car?

Knowing that the Patriots are now all-in on the remainder of the Tom Brady era, it made sense to see them make a last-minute push to keep Josh McDaniels around. Under that same strategy, it

would make sense for the Patriots to make a similar push for Gronkowski, and give him what he wants, which is more guaranteed money.

While the Patriots fully understand the soon-to-be 29-year-old's injury history, there isn't a single person in that organization who wants to see Gronkowski in next year's Royal Rumble while the team is preparing for Super Bowl LIII.

So they should do something similar to what Jacksonville just did to Blake Bortles' contract. Bortles was scheduled to make \$19 million in the

final year of that contract in 2018. Last week, they reworked it into a new three-year deal worth \$54 million, including \$26.5 million guaranteed.

Gronkowski also fully understands his own injury history. So at 29, guaranteed money is the key.

If I'm the Patriots, I'd get in a room and work something out. They have to. Because if the price is right, Gronkowski won't be going anywhere.

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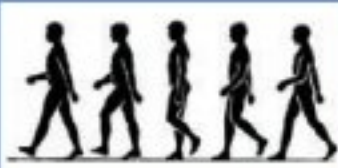
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LEGAL NOTICES

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Filcha A. Kelton to First Franklin Financial Corporation, dated December 30, 2002 and recorded with the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds at Book 30216, Page 282, as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement recorded in said Registry of Deeds at Book 51700, Page 329 subsequently assigned to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. successor by merger to Wells Fargo Bank Minnesota, N.A., as trustee for the Structured Asset Investment Loan Trust, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2003-BC3 by First Franklin Financial Corporation by assignment recorded in said Suffolk County Registry of Deeds at Book 44766, Page 173; of which Mortgage the undersigned is the present holder for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 2:00 PM on March 8, 2018 at 80 Robey Street, Unit 1, Boston (Dorchester), MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage.

TO WIT:

Cottage Condominium, Unit 1, 80 Robey Street, Dorchester, Massachusetts created by Master Deed dated August 26, 2002 and recorded with Suffolk Registry of Deeds Book 29226, Page 250, together with an undivided 50% interest in the common areas and facilities of the condominium as set forth in said Master Deed, said premises are subject to the following. The provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 183A, easements, restrictions, covenants, reservations terms and conditions contained or referred to in said Master Deed and the Declaration of Trust of the Cottage Condominium dated September 30, 2002, recorded with Suffolk Registry of Deeds Book 29226 Page 250. Said Unit 1, 80 Robey Street contains approximately 1,064 square feet of living space, 532 square feet lower level and 532 square feet upper level, 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, living room, dining room, kitchen, basement level storage.

"For informational purposes only reference is made to Amended and Restated Condominium Master Deed for Cottage Street Condominium 78-82 Robey Street recorded 3/12/03 at Book 30818 Page 290."

The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, building and zoning laws, liens, attorney's fees and costs pursuant to M.G.L.Ch.183A, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. **TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.**

Other terms if any, to be announced at the sale.

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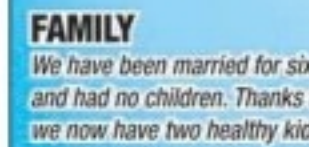
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Across

- 1 Lose brightness
- 5 Language of Pakistan
- 9 Prima donnas
- 14 -- hygiene
- 15 Southwest art colony
- 16 Yawning
- 17 Words from Scrooge
- 18 Aha! (2 wds.)
- 19 Doctor's assistant
- 20 Laundry additive
- 22 Composted
- 24 Store window word
- 26 Kyoto cash
- 27 Watch
- 31 Long ago
- 33 Type of prof
- 37 Toughens up
- 39 Pharaoh's river
- 41 Sedan
- 42 Tennis gear
- 44 Public image
- 46 Mdse. bars
- 47 Baby buggy, in London
- 49 Speckled fishes
- 50 Recipe direction
- 52 Suit, for short
- 54 Host with a book club
- 55 Clean water org.
- 57 -- -do-well
- 59 Mummy locales
- 63 Spa
- 67 Lagoon boundary

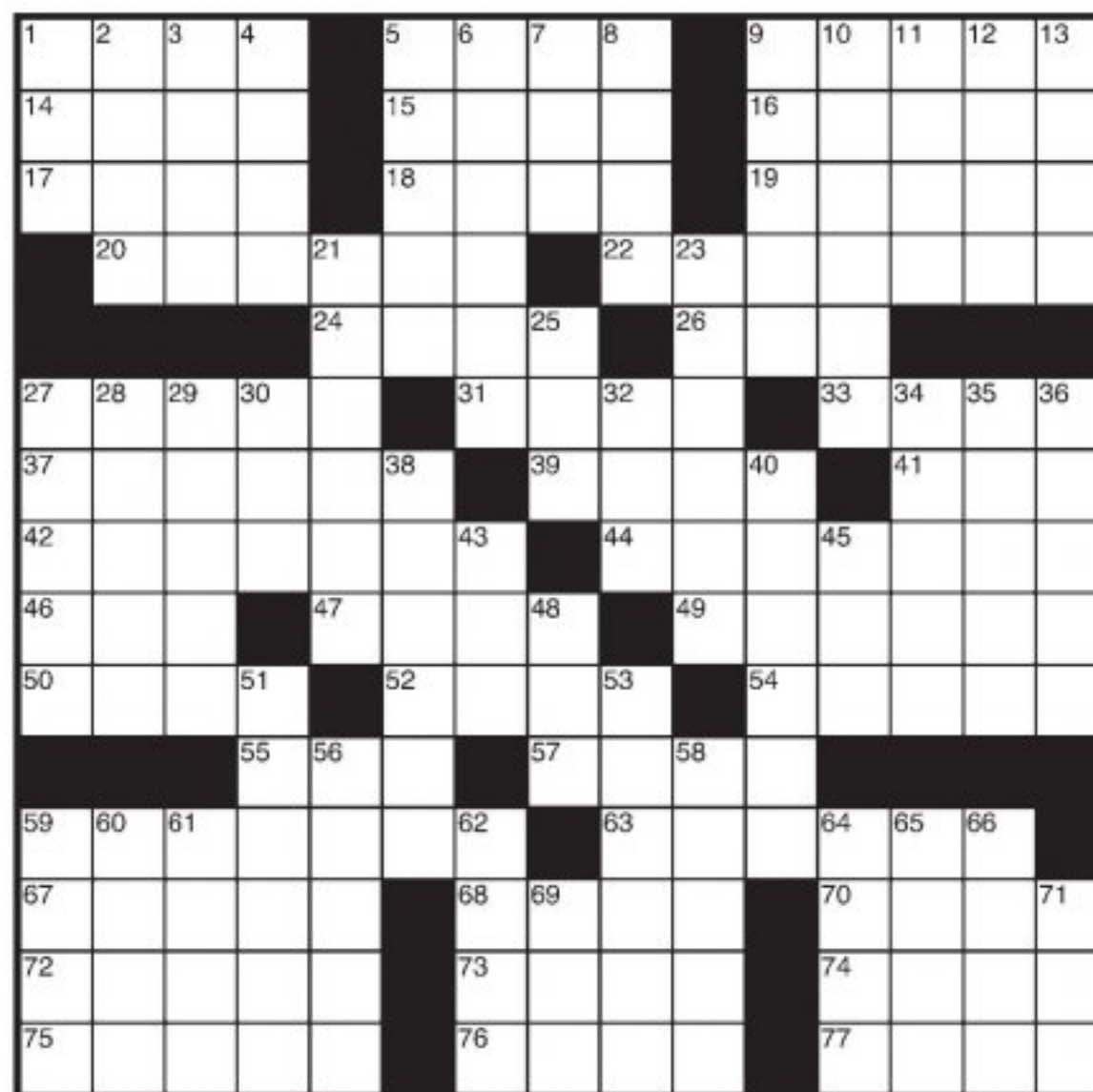
- 68 Lascivious glance
- 70 Placed
- 72 Eating places
- 73 Kyrgyzstan mountains
- 74 Writer -- Rice
- 75 Window covering
- 76 Irascibility
- 77 Feudal estate

Down

- 1 Watch chain
- 2 UAE word
- 3 Arlene of old films
- 4 Besides 5 New York city
- 6 Without thought
- 7 Female deer
- 8 Not new
- 9 Prom, for one
- 10 Large lizard
- 11 Be different
- 12 Church alcove

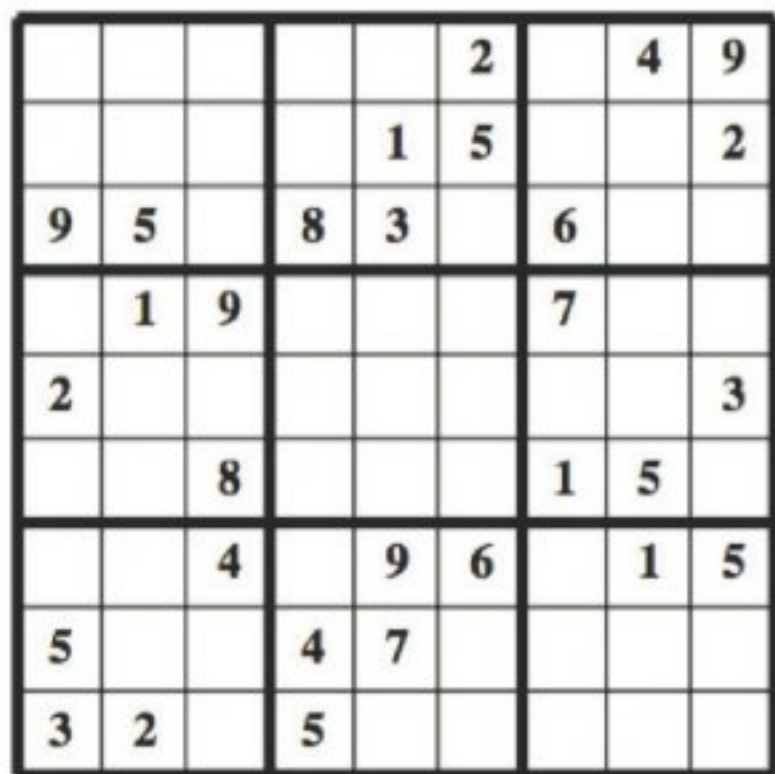
- 13 Put in a lawn
- 21 Dreaming, maybe
- 23 Grommet
- 25 Years on end
- 27 Flu bug
- 28 Out of place
- 29 Handbag logo
- 30 Annoy
- 32 Tear
- 34 Look high and low
- 35 Man in red
- 36 Rubbish
- 38 Fishing spot
- 40 Foul-ups
- 43 Lisa Simpson's instr.
- 45 Sponge up
- 48 Some adults
- 51 Felt dizzy
- 53 Quick breakfast
- 56 Sign of life
- 58 Unearthly
- 59 Apple computers
- 60 Rocky Mountain state
- 61 Den piece
- 62 Marble block
- 64 Canute's foe
- 65 Jaipur princess
- 66 Fork part
- 69 O.T. judge
- 71 Phone button

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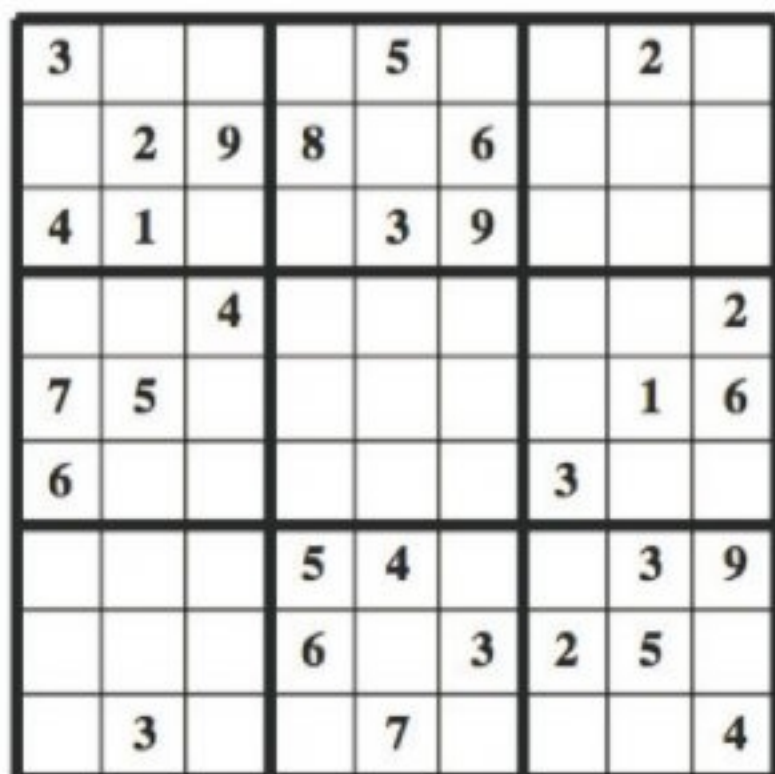


metro.us/sudoku

easy



hard



metro.us/horoscopes



Aries You can take action, but don't expect it to be smooth sailing. You'll face opposition, setbacks and stress. Be prepared to alter your course to ensure success.



Taurus Avoid joint financial ventures. What you do on your own will prove to be a better way to spend your time and money. Celebrate your success with someone you love.



Gemini Emotional matters will surface regarding partnership issues. Do your best to understand the motives behind what someone is asking of you.



Cancer Listen attentively and get along with the people you need on your side. Networking will give you the opportunity to convince others to listen to your plans.



Leo You'll be dancing to a different beat when it comes to work and getting things done. Don't underestimate someone trying to take control. Don't get angry, get moving.



Virgo The more you interact with others, the better. The information you are given and the related ideas that sprout will bring you closer to the people you enjoy working alongside.



Libra Take care of any matters pertaining to financial, medical or legal institutions before you move on to more enjoyable tasks. Protect your assets and personal documents.



Scorpio Your help will be valued and will lead to better relationships with your peers and employer. Embrace change and the chance to use your unique talents to get ahead.



Sagittarius You'll be caught in the middle if you meddle in other people's affairs. Keep your distance from anyone trying to lure you into something questionable.



Capricorn Reconnecting with someone from your past will let you revisit things you used to do. An opportunity that comes your way should be considered carefully.



Aquarius Listen attentively to others' viewpoints and consider every angle of a certain situation. Having a precise view will help you find a workable solution to a problem.



Pisces Listen to people's advice, but do what works best for you. Drawing from all sources of information will give you a well-rounded view of what's possible. **EUGENIA LAST**

Yesterday's answers



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